

NOAA Fisheries
Protected Resources Division
709 West 9th Street
Juneau, AK 99801-1668

MEMORANDUM FOR: Southeast Alaska Pacific Herring Peer Reviewers

FROM: Kate Savage

SUBJECT: Peer Review of Southeast Alaska Pacific Herring Status Review

DATE: 14 December 2012

Enclosed please find the draft Southeast Alaska Pacific herring status review compiled by the Protected Resources Division, Juneau, AK. I greatly appreciate your willingness to peer review the document. I have set January 31, 2013 as the tentative deadline for the peer review process, but we may amend that if necessary.

General directives:

1. Please base your review on the overview of the scientific information contained within the status review: assess if I correctly interpreted and applied the research and results.
2. The Literature Cited is included but is still in progress.
3. The analysis of demographic trends relative to threats (i.e. abundance, productivity, spatial structure, diversity etc.) is still in the hands of a contractor and I expect to send this section to you when I return in January. The Summary and Conclusions section will be sent to you then too. My apologies for the delay, but I suspect this will require relatively quick review.
4. Once the document has been through the peer review process, a Biological Review Team will assess the information for the final determination.
5. Remember that the contents of the document are to remain confidential until the Federal Register Notice is published. I will be sure to let you know via e-mail on how to obtain copies of the final status review

A few items regarding your peer review:

1. The Office of Management and Budget published a Peer Review Bulletin (December 2004) that requires online posting of this peer review as it has been determined to be "influential." This peer review bulletin is intended to enhance the quality and credibility of the federal governments scientific information. To ensure that we have a transparent process for public disclosure, names and affiliations of each peer reviewer is posted online as well as comments. While we must identify peer reviewers by name and affiliation, NMFS has the ability to post a compilation of reviewer comments. Therefore, I will not associate individual comments with reviewer name; rather I will compile the unabridged comments and organize by a reviewer number. Previously submitted Peer Reviews are available at http://www.cio.noaa.gov/Policy_Programs/prplans/PRsummaries.html

2. The Peer Review Bulletin further requires that non-Federal peer reviewers complete a "Confidential Conflict of Interest Disclosure" form. I have attached the form and request that you return it with your review. I also include an agency circular that includes definitions of some terms. Please note that you are required to submit a CV with the signed form. Peer reviewers who are federal employees do not need to sign the conflict of interest form, rather they must comply with applicable federal ethics requirements such as those at:
http://www.cio.noaa.gov/Policy_Programs/info_quality.html
3. Notably, if NMFS receives a FOIA request, anonymity of peer reviewers or comments cannot be guaranteed.

I will be out of town until Jan. 11, 2013. I will not be checking my work email while I am gone, but will be periodically checking my personal email at dock_savage@msn.com. If you have any pressing questions or concerns, please feel free to email me and I will get back to you as soon as I am able. Again, thank you very much for your willingness to review the status review.

Wishing you a warm, relaxing and joyous holiday season,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Kate Savage". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal line extending from the end of the name.

Kate Savage, DVM
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Juneau, AK.
(907) 586-7312

Attachments:
PRB Guidance 5-16-06.doc
NOAA_PRB_COI_Form_2